

What is claimed is:

1. A media processing device using an external storage device, comprising:
 - a storage device access module for accessing the external storage device through a certain transmission medium and providing an access to the external storage device;
 - an information sourcing module for sourcing an input signal;
 - a program memory module for storing a system program for system control of the media processing device;
 - a system memory module for providing memory space for operation of the media processing device;
 - a signal processing module for decoding media data according to a first signal processing method and encoding the input signal into media data according to a second signal processing method;
 - a user interface module for providing an interface to a user of the media processing device; and
 - a system control module for controlling the storage device access module, the signal processing module and the user interface module according to the system program; wherein the system control module accesses the external storage device through the storage device access module, reads file information of one or more media files, and constructs contents to be displayed on the user interface module based upon the read file information;
 - wherein, when the system control module receives a command to select one of the two or more media files through the user interface module, the system control module accesses the external storage device through the storage device access module, searches for the selected media file, reads data of the searched media file, copies the read data to the system memory module, and provides the copied data to the signal processing module so that the provided data are decoded according to the first signal processing method;
 - wherein, when the system control module receives a command to encode a signal through the user interface module, the system control module transmits the input signal

provided from the information sourcing module to the signal processing module so that the transmitted input signal is encoded to media data according to the second signal processing method, constructs a media file from the encoded media data, positions the media file on the system memory module, copies the constructed media file to the external storage device if the external storage device is currently accessible through the storage device access module, and waits until the external storage device becomes accessible and, then, copies the constructed media file to the external storage device if the external storage device is not currently accessible.

10 2. The media processing device as set forth in claim 1, wherein:

the storage device access module is constructed so that an access mode thereof is set to an activated mode or an inactivated mode having low power consumption according to control of the system control module;

15 the system control module accesses the external storage device, reads the file information and sets the access mode of the storage device access module to the inactivated mode;

20 when the system control module receives a command to select one of one or more media files through the user interface module, the system control module sets the access mode of the storage device access module to the activated mode, accesses the external storage device, copies data of the selected specific media file to the system memory module, and sets the access mode of the storage device access module to the inactivated mode; and

25 when the system control module receives a command to encode a signal through the user interface module, the system control module constructs the media file, positions the constructed media file on the system memory module, and sets the access mode of the storage device access module to the activated mode, copies the constructed media file to the external storage device and sets the access mode of the storage device access module to the inactivated mode, if the external storage device is accessible through the storage device access module.

3. A media processing device using an external storage device, comprising:
 - a storage device access module for accessing the external storage device through a certain transmission medium and providing an access to the external storage device;
 - a boot code memory module for storing a boot code for system booting of the media processing device;
 - a system memory module for providing memory space for operation of the media processing device;
 - a signal processing module for decoding media data according to a first signal processing method and decoding the input signal into the media data according to a second signal processing method;
 - a user interface module for providing an interface to a user of the media processing device; and
 - a system control module for controlling the storage device access module, the signal processing module and the user interface module;
- 15 wherein the system control module loads a system program for performing system control of the media processing device from the external storage device to the system memory module through the storage device access module in an early operation mode in which the media processing device is operated according to the boot code, and, thereafter, is operated according to the loaded system program;
- 20 wherein the system control module accesses the external storage device through the storage device access module, reads file information of one or more media files stored in the external storage device, and constructs contents to be displayed on the user interface module based upon the read file information;
- 25 wherein, when the system control module receives a command to select one of the two or more media files through the user interface module, the system control module accesses the external storage device through the storage device access module, copies data of the selected media file to the system memory module, and provides the copied data of the selected media file to the signal processing module so that the provided data of the selected media file are decoded according to the first signal processing method.

4. The media processing device as set forth in claim 3, wherein, when the system control module receives a report on connection of a second external storage device from the storage device access module after loading the system program for performing the system control of the media processing device to the system memory module, the system control module accesses the second external storage device, examines whether the system program exists in the second external storage device, and copies the system program from the system memory module to the second external storage device if the system program does not exist in the second external storage device.
- 10 5. A media processing device using an external storage device, comprising:
a storage device access module for accessing the external storage device through a certain transmission medium and providing an access to the external storage device;
a program memory module for storing a system program for system control of the media processing device;
15 a system memory module for providing memory space for operation of the media processing device;
a signal processing module for decoding media data according to a first signal processing method;
a user interface module for providing an interface to a user of the media processing device; and
20 a system control module for controlling the storage device access module, the signal processing module and the user interface module;
wherein the system control module accesses the external storage device through the storage device access module, reads file information of one or more media files, and constructs contents to be displayed on the user interface module based upon the read file information;
25 wherein, when the system control module receives a command to select one of the two or more media files through the user interface module, the system control module accesses the external storage device through the storage device access module, reads data of the selected media file, copies the read data of the selected media file to the system

memory module, and provides the copied data of the selected media file to the signal processing module so that the provided data of the selected media file are decoded according to the first signal processing method.

5 6. The media processing device as set forth in claim 3 or 5, wherein the system control module accesses the external storage device through the storage device access module, copies file information of one or more media files stored in the external storage device to the system memory module, and searches the external storage device for the selected specific media file based upon the copied file information.

10

7. The media processing device as set forth in claim 3 or 5, wherein:
the storage device access module is constructed so that an access mode thereof is set to an activated mode or an inactivated mode having low power consumption according to control of the system control module;

15

the system control module accesses the external storage device, reads the file information and sets the access mode of the storage device access module to the inactivated mode; and

20

when the system control module receives a command to select one of one or more media files through the user interface module, the system control module sets the access mode of the storage device access module to the activated mode, accesses the external storage device, copies data of the selected specific media file to the system memory module, and sets the access mode of the storage device access module to the inactivated mode.

25

8. The media processing device as set forth in claim 3 or 5, wherein the system control module copies another media data from the external storage device to the system memory module while causing the copied media data to be decoded according to the first signal processing method by providing the copied media data to the signal processing module, a priority of the copying operation being lower than that of the decoding operation.

30

9. The media processing device as set forth in claim 3 or 5, further comprising an information sourcing module for sourcing a signal;

5 wherein the signal processing module further performs an operation of encoding an input signal to media data according to a second signal processing method;

wherein, when the system control module receives a command to encode media data from a user through the user interface module, the system control module transmits the signal provided from the information sourcing module to the signal processing module so that the signal is encoded to media data according to a second signal processing method, constructs a media file from the encoded media data, positions the media file on the system memory module, and copies the constructed media file to the external storage device through the storage device access module if the external storage device is currently accessible through the storage device access module, and copies the constructed media file to the external storage device through the storage device access module after the external storage device becomes accessible, if the external storage device is not currently accessible through the storage device access module.

10. The media processing device as set forth in claim 1, 3 or 5, wherein the transmission medium is a well-known Universal Serial Bus (USB) transmission medium, 20 and the storage device access module accesses the external storage medium through the USB transmission medium and is operated in a host mode.

11. The media processing device as set forth in claim 1, 3 or 5, wherein the transmission medium is a well-known Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) 1394 transmission medium, and the storage device access module accesses the external storage medium through the IEEE 1394 transmission medium and is operated in a Serial Bus Protocol 2 (SBP2) initiator mode.

12. The media processing device as set forth in claim 1, 3 or 5, wherein the 30 transmission medium is a well-known wireless communications medium, and the storage

device access module accesses the external storage medium through the well-known communications medium and is operated in a controller mode.